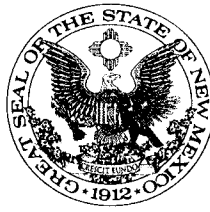


Bill Richardson
GOVERNOR

Reese Fullerton
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Len Malry
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Governor's Office of
WORKFORCE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

June 15, 2004

Mr. Joseph Juarez
Regional Administrator
United States Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
525 S. Griffin Street, Room 317
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Juarez:

On November 5, 2002, the New Mexico Department of Labor as the State Administrative Entity (SAE) submitted a request to waive the Subsequent Eligible Training Provider (ETP) requirements found at WIA Sec. 122(c) and 20 CFR Sections 663.500 through 663.565 regarding performance/cost information required for subsequent eligibility of training providers. The waiver request included a plan of action and timetable for implementation. The waiver and plan was granted approval by USDOL in correspondence dated January 21, 2003, however, the waiver will terminate June 30, 2004.

I am requesting an extension of the waiver through June 30, 2005. While eligible providers are able to provide eligibility information under Section 663.515, related course/program information (course/program descriptions, duration, credit/contact hours, tuition/book costs, etc.), the ability of eligible training providers to generate performance/cost information has not been resolved.

Additionally, due to the State of New Mexico requirements that the Office of Workforce Training and Development (OWTD) transition from the New Mexico Department of Labor by June 30, 2004, and because the OWTD is experiencing an abnormally high level of staff retirements, resulting in many internal job reassignments due to staff shortages, the timetable provided by the NMDOL Office of the Secretary cannot be met.

Currently, the Eligible Training Provider System resides on the NMDOL website and the OWTD will be working with the State General Services Department to establish the independent website capability. To further complicate matters, the existing web system does not speak to the Geo Solutions Virtual One-Stop System (VOSS). Although we continue to work with local areas daily in updating the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), the result of the two systems which do not communicate is that all updates must be entered manually. The OWTD is currently working with Information Technology (IT) staff to remove the WIA web system from the NMDOL and to create electronic tracking/updating features that are not yet finalized and that are subject to the approval/implementation by the State General Services Department.

Discussions with local area staff will enable us to identify other concerns, resolve issues, and improve the ETPL system.

Planned new features will communicate electronically with each local area board and maintain updates of providers/ programs on a daily basis. It is anticipated that new features will enable electronic interchange of most information needed by the (VOSS) data reporting system.

The waiver extension will be incorporated by reference into the State's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitutes a modification of New Mexico's approved five-year strategic plan. A copy of the letter requesting extension and approval will be filed with the state's WIA Grant Agreement and the state's approved five-year plan, as appropriate.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and to the achievement of better workforce investment outcomes and the improvement of the lives of many of the residents of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Reese Fullerton
Executive Director

RF:vm

xc: Ray Gonzales
OWTD Files